

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 H-02 SS-14

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01 /112 W

----- 123854

R 221626 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4113

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS VALLETTA 0578

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, MT, PK

SUBJECT: CIVIL AVIATION - BOEING PLANES FOR AIR MALTA

ROME PLEASE PASS BOB EDWARDS, BOEING INTERNATIONAL

REF: VALLETTA 555 (NOTAL); VALLETTA A-70 (NOTAL)

1. IN STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT LAST NIGHT PM MINTOFF CONFIRMED THAT AT SUGGESTION PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES (PIA) BOEING 720 B'S WOULD BE USED ON AIR MALTA ROUTES.

2. IN DEFENDING TO OPPOSITION HIS CHOICE PIA, MINTOFF SAID, "PIA DID NOT EVEN REQUEST A MANAGEMENT FEE AS OTHER AIRLINES DID." THEY AGREED, HOWEVER, TRAIN 10 PILOTS AND 10 ENGINEERS FOR GOM FOR FEE OF 150,000 MALTA POUNDS. HE SAID THAT SINCE PAKISTAN HAD LOST A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF ITS TERRITORY, PIA HAS CONSIDERABLE SURPLUS CAPACITY AND THAT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THEY ABLE OFFER BETTER TERMS THAN ANYBODY ELSE. GOM REPLIED TO FIRST PIA EXPRESSION OF INTEREST, "IF YOU CAN BEAT BEA, YOU' RE WELCOME."

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3. MINTOFF SAID BEST ARRANGEMENT IN MEDITERRANEAN BETWEEN A BIG AIRLINE AND A SMALLER ONE IS THAT OF CYPRUS AIRWAYS WITH BEA. GOM WANTED BEA TO GIVE UNDERTAKING THAT THEIR CONDITIONS WOULD NOT BE LESS FAVORABLE THAN THOSE GIVEN TO CYPRUS AIRWAYS. BEA, HOWEVER, MAINTAINED THAT CYPRUS AIRLINE HAD GIVEN THEM DIFFICULTY.

4. IN REPLY TO OPPOSITION QUESTION, PM SAID GOM WOULD RECOMMEND RE- ENGAGEMENT OF MALTA AIRLINE' S EMPLOYEES BY NEW COMPANY. PRESENT SALARIES AND CONDITIONS, HOWEVER, COULD NOT BE GUARANTEED.

5. WHEN PRESSED BY OPPOSITION LEADER, BORG OLIVIER, TO PROVIDE NAMES OF OTHER COMPANIES WHICH HAD MADE PROPOSALS, MINTOFF LISTED LUFTHANSA (CHANGED THEIR MIND); SABENA (DID NOT WANT TO BE OPERATOR); AER LINGUS; NATIONAL AIRWAYS (USA); WORLD AIRWAYS (USA); NIPPON; ITAVIA; AND UTA. GETZ

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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30 JUN 2005

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